



Australian Bureau of Statistics

1376.0 - Local Government and ABS, Mar 2010

Previous ISSUE Released at 11:30 AM (CANBERRA TIME) 25/03/2010

CONTENTS



Welcome from the Director

Includes: Welcome from the Director of the **Rural and Regional Statistics National Centre**.



Estimates of Personal Income

Includes: An article highlighting two recent releases containing estimates of personal income, including Local Government Areas with the highest average income from Wages and Salaries.



What's happening in Local Government Finance

Includes: An update on the latest news and developments in **Local Government Finance**.



News from the National Statistical Service

Includes: An announcement about the upcoming Nat Stats Conference and an article on 'How Fit Is Your Data?'



Recent and Future ABS Releases

Includes: A number of recent and future ABS releases, including information about the **Census 2011** and the upcoming release of the **National Regional Profile**.



Other News and Contacts

Includes: Information on the recently updated **Regional Statistics theme page**, the Community Indicators Summit, including links to video presentations, and how to find **Help for Local Government on the ABS website**.

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Previous ISSUE Released at 11:30 AM (CANBERRA TIME) 25/03/2010



WELCOME FROM THE DIRECTOR

LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND ABS

Welcome to the latest edition of the 'Local Government and ABS' newsletter.

What's in this issue?

This issue contains a feature article [Estimates of Personal Income](#) highlighting two recent releases containing estimates of personal income for small areas, including Local Government Areas. These data can be used to explore questions such as: have regional incomes grown at the same or different rates? The article includes the ten highest average Wage and salary income regions in Local Government Areas in capital cities, and in regions outside of the capital cities.

Another article in this issue contains the latest news from the [National Statistical Service \(NSS\)](#). The National Statistical Service will be holding their upcoming NatStats 2010 conference on 15-17 September 2010. There is also an article on data quality titled 'How fit is your data?'. This article talks about the management of data and good data practices.

Other information in this issue includes an update on [What's happening in Local Government Finance](#) and information about a number of relevant [Recent and Future ABS releases](#). Future releases include [Regional Population Growth, Australia, 2008-09](#) (cat. no 3218.0), and the [National Regional Profile](#).

We hope you find this newsletter interesting and informative, and we welcome your feedback and comments.

Lisa Conolly

Director

Regional Statistics Branch

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1376.0 - Local Government and ABS, Mar 2010

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ESTIMATES OF PERSONAL INCOME

PERSONAL INCOME IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREAS

Recently, the ABS has released two time series with small area estimates of personal income using data from the Australian Taxation Office. Both of these series are available for Local Government Areas and other geographies below state/territory, and include data for the years 2003-04 to 2006-07.

Analysing change in sources of personal income over time can provide valuable insight into the nature of regional economies and aspects of the economic wellbeing of the people who live there. These data can be used to explore questions such as:

- whether regional economies have grown at different rates
- whether high income regions also experienced high growth in income
- are there low income-high growth regions that are 'catching up' to high income regions.

Estimates of Personal Income for Small Areas, Time Series, 2003-04 to 2006-07 (cat.no. 6524.0.55.002) was released on 17 December 2009 and contains estimates of the sources of personal income, including Wages and salaries, Own unincorporated business, Investments, Superannuation and annuities and Other income. The data includes the number of persons, total income and average income from each of those sources. While total income grew this period at an average annual growth rate of 8.2%, there was variation between the sources of income and between regions. For example, the growth rate of income from Own unincorporated business was positive in all capital cities, but negative in the balance of four states (NSW, Vic, SA Tas). Files containing data for Local Government Areas can be found in the Downloads tab of this release.

Wage and Salary Earner Statistics for Small Areas, Time Series, 2003-04 to 2006-07 (cat. no. 5673.0.55.003) was released on 12 March 2010 and contains more detailed data relating to Wage and salary earners. Files containing cross-classifications by age, sex, occupation and income for Local Government Areas can be found in the Downloads tab of this release. In Australia, average income from Wages and salaries grew at an average annual growth rate of 4.5% in this period, reaching \$42 081 in 2006-07.

Tables 1 and 2 below show an example of the Local Government Area data available. Table 1 contains the highest average Wage and salary income Local Government Areas in capital cities in 2006-07. Nine of the top ten Local Government Areas were in Sydney.

Table 1: Top ten average Wage and salary incomes - Capital Cities 2006-07

Rank	Local Government Area	Average Wage and salary income
1	Mosman (A) (NSW)	\$106,397
2	Woollahra (A) (NSW)	\$85,225
3	Hunters Hill (A) (NSW)	\$77,798
4	North Sydney (A) (NSW)	\$72,939
5	Ku-ring-gai (A) (NSW)	\$71,371
6	Leichhardt (A) (NSW)	\$68,703
7	Lane Cove (A) (NSW)	\$67,777

8	Willoughby (A) (NSW)	\$67,687
9	Manly (A) (NSW)	\$66,365
10	Peppermint Grove (S) (WA)	\$66,263

All of these Local Government Areas in Table 1 recorded growth rates in average Wage and salary income higher than the average for Australia (4.5%). These ranged from 4.8% in Lane Cove to 9.1 % in Mosman.

Table 2 shows highest average Wage and salary income Local Government Areas outside of the capital cities. Ashburton Shire, the highest average Wage and salary income area outside of the capital cities, was twelfth highest in Australia.

Table 2: Top ten average Wage and salary incomes - Regional Areas 2006-07

Rank	Local Government Area	Average Wage and salary income
1	Ashburton (S) (WA)	\$64,920
2	Roeburne (S) (WA)	\$63,418
3	Roxby Downs (M) (SA)	\$61,633
4	East Pilbara (S) (WA)	\$61,555
5	Isaac (R) (Qld)	\$60,482
6	Port Hedland (T) (WA)	\$59,967
7	Coolgardie (S) (WA)	\$57,565
8	Leonora (S) (WA)	\$55,875
9	Central Highlands (R) (Qld)	\$53,079
10	Mount Isa (C) (Qld)	\$52,416

Growth rates in average Wage and salary income for the Local Government Areas in Table 2 ranged from 4.0% in Isaac to 7.5% in Mt Isa.

High income does not necessarily mean high growth rates. Similarly, high growth rates do not necessarily mean high incomes. While (as seen in Table 2) some LGAs with high average Wage and salary incomes experienced low average annual growth rates, other regions recorded both low incomes and low growth rates in average Wages and salaries. Table 3 presents a selection of LGAs that fall into four categories of income and growth. LGAs were grouped according to whether their average annual incomes in 2006-07 fell in the top or bottom 20% of LGAs and whether their average annual growth rate in average Wages and salaries was above or below the Australian rate of 4.5%.

Table 3: Selected LGAs by Average Annual Wage and Salary Income and Growth Rate

	High Income (1)	Low Income (2)
High Growth (3)	Mosman (A) (NSW)	Kent (S) (WA)
	Central Highlands (Qld)	Elliston (DC) (SA)
	Roxby Downs (M) (SA)	Break O'Day (M) (Tas)
	Peppermint Grove (S) (WA)	Kojonup (SA) (WA)
	Palmerston (C) (NT)	Paroo (S) (Qld)
Low Growth (4)	Hornsby (A) (NSW)	Walcha (A) (NSW)
	Burnside (C) (SA)	Kimba (DC) (SA)
	Moonee Valley (C) (Vic)	Loddon (S) (Vic)
	Cloncurry (S) (Qld)	Mornington (S) (Qld)
	Leonora (S) (WA)	Tasman (M) (Tas)

(1) Average annual Wage and Salary Income in 2006-07 in top Quintile (more than \$42,550)

(2) Average annual Wage and Salary Income in 2006-07 in bottom Quintile (less than \$30,995)

(3) Average annual growth rate in average Wage and Salary income more than 4.5%

(4) Average annual growth rate in average Wage and Salary income less than 4.5%

Further details are available in [Estimates of Personal Income for Small Areas, Time Series, 2003-04 to 2006-07](#) (cat. no. 6524.0.55.002) and [Wage and Salary Earner Statistics for Small Areas 2006-07](#) (cat. no. 5673.0.55.003)

This page last updated 20 September 2010

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WHAT'S HAPPENING IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT FINANCE

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT FINANCE

Collections

The Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) collects and publishes annual Local Government Finance data, including the amount and purpose of local government expenditure. This annual financial data is collected from each state or territory's Department of Local Government/Grants Commission. The ABS also undertakes a quarterly sample survey of councils.

Annual

The Local Government Statistical Unit (LGSU) of the ABS is currently processing the Annual Data returns supplied by each state's Grants Commission. The financial and function data on these forms are edited with the output being used by the ABS to compile Government Finance Statistics. Data is published in Government Finance Statistics, Australia (cat. no. 5512.0) in early April.

Quarterly

The ABS conducts a quarterly survey of financial information which will be despatched to a selected sample of councils in the third week of March. Responses to the quarterly survey are required by 8 April 2009 (6 working days after the end of the quarter). Early attention to getting the forms to the ABS will ensure that the financial activity of local government is accurately represented in Australia's National Accounts.

The ABS thanks councils for their cooperation in providing high quality data for these collections. Information provided is used in making important policy decisions concerning the sector and it is important that accurate and timely information is returned by councils in building this data set.

Visits to Departments of Local Government and Grants Commissions

Each year the LGSU endeavours to meet with state/territory Grants Commissions or Departments of Local Government to review the recently completed annual collection and to commence preparations for the next cycle. These meetings are currently planned for May and June of this year.

For further information or inquiries about Local Government Statistics, contact the Local Government Statistical Unit on (07) 3222 6330.

This page last updated 20 September 2010

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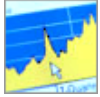
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NEWS FROM THE NATIONAL STATISTICAL SERVICE

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NatStats 2010 Conference

How Fit is Your Data?

NatStats 2010 Conference

The Australian Bureau of Statistics will be hosting another NatStats conference at the Sydney Convention and Exhibition Centre, Darling Harbour on 15 - 17 September 2010.

NatStats 2010 will build on the enthusiasm and passion generated by delegates at NatStats08 and aims to build stronger links with key stakeholders, strengthen the understanding of statistical issues within and across governments, and consolidate support for current and emerging statistical initiatives.

An exciting program is being developed and will address a range of issues regarding national statistics. If you would like to hear more about NatStats 2010 Conference, or have any suggestions, please contact Annette Hants on (02) 6252 6936 or email natstats@nss.gov.au.

[Back to top](#)

How Fit is Your Data?

Over the past few years, the call has been put out for public policies to be informed by good evidence. Statistical information is now answering that call. Statistical information has long been recognised as being good evidence, which places it at the heart of evidence-based policy.

So, how do we get "good statistical information"? One answer is DATAfitness.

DATAfitness = good data management practice.

Good data management is one of the foundation stones for building a solid statistical resource for Australia. In simple terms, DATAfitness symbolises the ability to compare apples with apples or being able to compare data which has similar characteristics.

The National Statistical Service (NSS), a community of government agencies led by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS), is promoting good data management practices through its DATAfitness program. DATAfitness encourages the use of statistical frameworks, principles and resources which can help data providers and users to realise the benefits of good data management.

The three key elements of DATAfitness are:

Metadata Management, which describes what data is about and where it comes from. Adding metadata about data is essential for bringing data sets together and comparing information from different sources.

Data Quality, which describes data's "fitness for purpose". Data has a range of dimensions which must be understood to determine whether or not data is "fit for purpose" or, put simply, whether it can be used for the desired purpose.

Data Sharing, which describes sharing information as an important part of maximising data use and re-use. Data sharing arrangements ease the sharing of data between providers and users and support evidence-based policy and decision-making.

As part of its DATAfitness program, the NSS recently released [A good practice guide to sharing your data with others](#). The guide supports quality data sharing across agencies by offering a non-technical introduction. It also provides a basic model for making data sharing agreements, which includes factors to consider and how these relate to agencies, staff and data.

The NSS is also currently developing an easy-to-use online support system for data collectors, providers and users - the Data Quality Online Tool (DQOT).

The DQOT is the first of its kind in the world and will provide clear and simple assistance to those involved in managing data.

The tool will help users to compile data quality statements and will also provide tailored guidance on statements for COAG indicators.

The NSS will officially launch the DQOT in March 2010, in conjunction with the ABS. The tool is based on the nationally recognised [ABS Data Quality Framework](#) which provides a consistent standard for describing the quality of data.

For more information on DATAfitness, visit www.nss.gov.au/datafitness or email inquiries@nss.gov.au .

[Back to top](#)

This page last updated 20 September 2010

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Australian Bureau of Statistics

1376.0 - Local Government and ABS, Mar 2010

Previous ISSUE Released at 11:30 AM (CANBERRA TIME) 25/03/2010



RECENT AND FUTURE ABS RELEASES

RECENT RELEASES

[Census of Population and Housing: Nature and Content: 2011](#)

[Discussion Paper : Census of Population and Housing - ABS views on 2011 Census Output Geography](#)

[Births](#)

[Deaths](#)

[Motor Vehicle Census](#)

[Building Approvals](#)

[State and Regional Indicators, Victoria](#)

[Regional Statistics, Northern Territory](#)

FUTURE RELEASES

[National Regional Profile](#)

[Regional Population Growth, Australia](#)

[Tourist Accommodation](#)

CENSUS OF POPULATION AND HOUSING: NATURE AND CONTENT: 2011

Census of Population and Housing: Nature and Content: 2011 (cat. no. 2008.0) was released on 20 November 2009. This publication explains the way that the 2011 Census will be collected, and provides information such as the topics and questions that will be included.

For example, Chapter 5 'Results/Output' discusses the geographic outputs that will be available, using the new geographical system that the ABS will be introducing in 2011, the Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS). This new geography was featured in a previous issue of this newsletter: see the article in the [Local Government and ABS newsletter September 2009](#) issue. The smallest level of output in the 2011 Census will be the statistical area level 1 (SA1). The SA1 will be composed of aggregates of mesh blocks and be of slightly smaller average size than a 2006 Census collection district.

Chapters 6-7 contain the topics to be included in the 2011 Census. For further information see [Census of Population and Housing: Nature and Content: 2011](#) (cat. no. 2008.0).

[Back to top](#)

DISCUSSION PAPER: CENSUS OF POPULATION AND HOUSING - ABS VIEWS ON 2011 CENSUS

OUTPUT GEOGRAPHY

Discussion Paper: Census of Population and Housing - ABS Views on 2011 Census Output Geography (cat. no. 2911.0.55.002) was released on 9 March 2010. This paper advises of the plans for releasing data from the 2011 Census on the new Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS) and invites feedback on these plans.

The smallest geographical unit of the ASGS for which full 2011 Census statistics will be published will be the Statistical Area Level 1 (SA1). The ASGS, with improved geographical resolution, will provide statistics of comparable or better quality for most non-ABS geographies that were previously derived from whole Collection Districts (CDs). These will include Local Government Areas (LGAs), suburbs, postal areas, and Commonwealth and State electoral divisions.

Time series data from the 2011 Census will be available for Australia, States and Territories, 2011 Statistical Local Areas (SLAs) and 2011 LGAs.

The discussion paper includes two tables showing the range of Census products that may be available for the various levels of the ASGS, and for non-ABS geographies including LGAs.

The ABS is inviting feedback by Thursday 1 April 2010. See the discussion paper for further details and how to provide feedback. A paper describing the full range of products and services following the 2011 Census of Population and Housing will be released for comment in the first half of 2010.

[Back to top](#)

BIRTHS

Births, Australia, 2008 (cat. no. 3301.0) was released on 11 November 2009. This publication presents a range of statistics on confinements and live births, including data on male and female births, births of Indigenous children, age and birthplace of parents, duration of marriage, nuptial and exnuptial births, single and multiple births and fertility rates. Small level data is available for the number of births and fertility rates for Local Government Areas, Statistical Local Areas, and Statistical Divisions.

The current issue can be found in [Births, Australia, 2008](#) (cat. no. 3301.0).

[Back to top](#)

DEATHS

Deaths, Australia, 2008 (cat. no. 3302.0) was released on 25 November 2009 and contains a range of statistics on deaths and mortality for 2008. The publication included the number of deaths, classified by age, sex, birthplace, marital status, cause of death and usual residence by state or territory, as well as information on infant deaths, deaths of Indigenous persons, age-specific death rates, expectation of life at birth and standardised death rates. At the Local Government Area level, data on the number of deaths and standardised death rates is available.

The current issue can be found in [Deaths, Australia, 2008](#) (cat. no. 3302.0).

[Back to top](#)

MOTOR VEHICLE CENSUS

[Motor Vehicle Census, Australia, 31 March 2009](#) (cat. no. 9309.0) was released on 17 November 2009. This publication presents statistics relating to vehicles registered as at 31 March 2009 with a motor vehicle registration authority. Motor vehicle registration statistics are compiled from data made available by various state and territory motor vehicle registration authorities and reflect the information as recorded in registration documents. The data is available at the Australian and state/territory level, as well as by the postcode of the vehicle owner.

Statistics are provided on vehicle types comprising passenger vehicles, campervans, light commercial vehicles, all types of trucks, buses and motorcycles.

Vehicle characteristic information includes make of vehicle, year of manufacture, type of fuel that the vehicle was registered as using, and Gross Vehicle Mass or Gross Combination Mass for trucks. The size of the motor vehicle fleet is also compared with the estimated resident population.

[Back to top](#)

BUILDING APPROVALS

[Building Approvals, Jan 2010](#) (cat. no. 8731.0) was released on 2 March 2010. Released on a monthly basis, this publication provides data by Statistical Local Area (and Local Government Area upon request), including:

- the number and value of dwelling units approved by sector (public/private);
- the number and value of new other residential dwelling units approved by type of building; and
- the number and value of non-residential building jobs approved by type of building.

Seasonally adjusted and trend estimates by state are included for the number of dwelling units and value of building approved.

[Back to top](#)

STATE AND REGIONAL INDICATORS, VICTORIA

[State and Regional Indicators, Victoria, December 2009](#) (cat. no. 1367.2) was released on 19 February 2010. This publication provides a summary of statistical information for Victoria at the state and/or regional level. Included in each chapter is commentary on statistical highlights which provides analysis and graphs on selected indicators. The data is available at a number of geographic levels depending on the type of the data; recorded crime and building approvals for example are at the Local Government Area level.

[Back to top](#)

REGIONAL STATISTICS, NORTHERN TERRITORY

[Regional Statistics, Northern Territory, March 2010](#) (cat. no. 1362.7) was released on 12 March 2010. This publication provides a summary of information for the Northern Territory at the territory and Statistical Subdivision level for population and environmental data.

[Back to top](#)

FUTURE RELEASES

NATIONAL REGIONAL PROFILE

To be released on 29 April 2010, the National Regional Profile (NRP) presents, for all Australia, a range of data for various types of small regions. Data are available for Local Government Areas, Statistical Local Areas and other larger geographies. This new edition will contain new data including Water Use on Australian Farms and selected Government Pensions and Allowances. The NRP will also have a new way to find your region of interest using a Google map.

The NRP is intended for users interested in the characteristics of regions and in comparing regions across Australia. Data are presented as a five year time series, where available. The NRP is ideal for those wishing to find a snapshot of data for small areas. The next release of the NRP will contain data from the years 2004 to 2008.

To find a snapshot of your Local Government Area, or another region, simply select the National Regional Profile link on the left hand side of the ABS website [Home Page](#).

[Back to top](#)

REGIONAL POPULATION GROWTH, AUSTRALIA 2008-09

To be released on 30 March 2010, Regional Population Growth, Australia, 2008-09 (cat. no. 3218.0). This product contains estimates of the resident populations of areas of Australia as at 30 June in each year from 2001 to 2009. The areas for which estimates will be provided are Local Government Areas (LGAs), Statistical Local Areas (SLAs), Statistical Divisions (SDs), Statistical Subdivisions (SSDs), Statistical Districts and states and territories of Australia, according to the 2009 edition of the Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC).

[Back to top](#)

TOURIST ACCOMMODATION

To be released on 30 March 2010, [Tourist Accommodation, Australia, December 2009](#) (cat. no. 8635.0). This release presents results from the Survey of Tourist Accommodation (STA). The survey includes a variety of accommodation types; hotels, motels, serviced apartments, caravan parks, holiday flats and visitor hostels. Key findings of the data are available as original series, but for hotels, motels and serviced apartments with 15 or more rooms, seasonally adjusted and trend series data are also available.

Small area data are available for states and territories in catalogue numbers 8635.1.55.001 through to 8635.8.55.007. Data are available for Statistical Local Areas (SLAs), Local Government Areas (LGAs) and Tourism Regions (TRs). The publication 9503.0.55.001 contains maps defining the Tourism Regions.

[Back to top](#)

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OTHER NEWS AND CONTACTS

REGIONAL STATISTICS THEME PAGE

The [Regional Statistics theme page](#) is a great place to start if you are looking for data or information about regional statistics.

The Regional Releases page contains links to ABS products containing regional data, organised under the topic headings Economy, Population and People, Industry and Environment and Energy. The page also includes links to compendia products, such as the National Regional Profile and state-specific publications. The Noticeboard is updated regularly to provide users with information on the latest developments in regional statistics, while the theme page also provides links to other relevant theme pages and information about using and interpreting statistics.

HELP FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT ON THE ABS WEBSITE

For help in finding data for your Local Government Area and information about how to keep up to date with the latest ABS releases and available training, click on the following link to view the '[Services We Provide to Local Government](#)' information pages.

Alternatively, go to the [ABS Home Page](#), click on 'Services' along the top navigation bar and follow the link to 'Local Government'.

UNDERSTANDING STATISTICS

The ABS has recently released a series of new help pages called '[Understanding Statistics](#)'. These pages provide an overview of statistical terms and methods used by the ABS and other statistical agencies. On the ABS Home Page, you will find the 'Understanding Statistics' link under the 'All Statistics' section at the top of the left navigation bar.

This new page is of assistance to new visitors to the ABS website as well as more advanced users. It contains some common statistical definitions (under the [Introduction to Statistics](#) heading) as well as information on ABS training courses, plus on line tutorials, presentations and resources. It also contains an ABS blog, '[Statistically Speaking](#)' in which input is sought from data users.

NEWSLETTER AND ABS CONTACT DETAILS

This newsletter is designed to improve communication between the ABS and the Local Government Sector. New ABS initiatives to assist local government organisations will be announced in this newsletter as they evolve.

We appreciate receiving your views and suggestions about this newsletter so that it remains useful and assists you to understand and use ABS statistics. We also welcome suggestions for articles that you feel should be included. Please email your comments and suggestions to regional.statistics@abs.gov.au.

For other enquiries contact the National Information and Referral Service on 1300 135 070 or e-mail: client.services@abs.gov.au.

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Alternatively, you can access the [Email Notification Service](#) from the link on the ABS Home Page or from the Email Notification icon on any other page of the website where it appears. Simply choose topic '1. General', subtopic '13. Year books and other multi-subject products', select 'Go' and scroll down to '1376.0 - Local Government and ABS'. The service also enables you to find out what you have subscribed to, and cancel or modify your subscription.

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Contains a range of information on ABS developments in rural and regional statistics, and information about recent releases at Local Government level or other regional levels.

This page last updated 20 September 2010

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